

Prairie Bush Clover ***Lespedeza leptostachya***

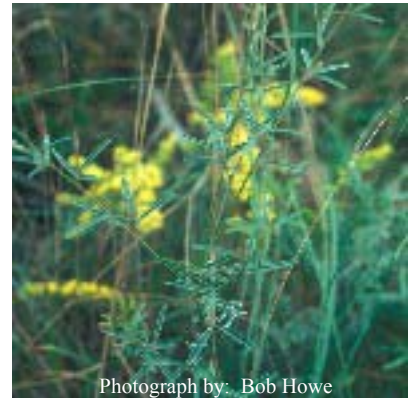
Habitat: Well drained to moderately drained soils dominated by tall grass prairie species

Blooms: Mid-August to mid-September, pale pink or cream; generally less than 18 inches tall but can reach up to 3 feet tall.

Fruits: densely hairy

Threats:

- Disappearance of natural habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground
 - Tree invasion: shade is detrimental to the long-term survival of this species
 - Urban expansion
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Haying removes seed and reduces population size.
- Over grazing
- Herbicide drift



Photograph by: Bob Howe

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Early spring burns (prior to April 15 in southern Iowa; prior to April 20th in northern Iowa)
- Woody invasion removal (avoid disturbance of individual plants)
- Limit haying
- Limit grazing
- If mechanical harvest heights reach the level of this species wait until late September to harvest.
- Harvest only 70% of a given site in any given year.
- Establish new tracts of grassland surrounding existing populations to buffer against herbicide drift.